

A determined defence

Where Science Leads And Lights A Strong Path To Safety



Devangi Majumdar, XII I and
Yateshha Kaushik, XI J, AIS Gur 46

Dr Chandrika Kaushik, a distinguished scientist and Director General (PC&SI) at DRDO, has made great contributions to India's defence landscape. She has been instrumental in developing, producing, and integrating advanced defense systems. A strong proponent of the 'Make in India' initiative, she has helped reduce dependence on foreign imports, ensuring the creation of state-of-the-art, home-grown technology. Let's dive into her talk with GT that will inspire women to break barriers and pursue excellence in innovation.

Glorious moments

Every time a product reaches the user, it gives me immense satisfaction.

There's a common thread connecting it all - from defining the system, conceptualising projects, development, constant review and monitoring, trials and evaluations in the field, to identifying the right industry partners, and finally seeing

Pics: Yashasvi Aggarwal, AIS Gur 46, X H



Dr Kaushik with GT reporters

the product being inducted and used. Operation Sindoor was one such opportunity, where we saw systems like SCALP, HAMMER, and several others play their part in defending our country.

In her stride

Fortunately, I never faced any major challenges in my career. Sure, there were a few hiccups, but those are to be taken in stride. With focus on your goal, nothing can stop you from achieving what you want. As women, we need extra efforts to balance family and work. But our organisation is very supportive, and we had many brilliant mentors guiding us. Now, it's our turn to shape the next generation.

A bright future

Today, we have the technological capability to create various defence systems — missiles, guidance systems, radars, underwater weapons, submarines, fighter aircrafts, and artillery guns. One area that

INTERVIEW

still needs focus is propulsion and the raw materials required for these systems. We are gradually moving from 'Make in India', to 'Made in India', where the intellectual property will belong to our country, and nothing can hold us back.

On the right path

The most meaningful recognition for me came when a leading news magazine featured me in their 'She' list. It was special as it was a recognition from the public. It made me feel that my work was truly contributing to the larger system. I live by the philosophy of the Bhagavad Gita: "Do your best and leave it." Put your focus into the work that is to be done, rather than worrying about the results. When your motivation is right, life becomes peaceful. Personally, curiosity keeps me going. I always want to know what's happening in the world.

Message for Amitians

Think big and think independently. Whenever you come across a problem, try to find a solution yourself instead of looking for ready-made answers. Have the conviction to do what you believe is right, for the potential within you is immense.



Dr Chandrika Kaushik
Director General (PC&SI), DRDO

Book Review

A quest for the untold

Synopsis: In Dan Brown's first novel in nearly ten years, Harvard symbologist, Robert Langdon is once again avalanched in solving a twisted puzzle that begins with a mysterious murder in Prague, disappearance of his partner, and a chase by a powerful organisation. From decoding a secret message to uncovering one of the world's most powerful and startling discoveries about the nature of human consciousness that threatens to disrupt centuries of established beliefs, Langdon is at the centre of this enigmatic chaos using his sharp wit and quick thinking against forces unknown. This conspiracy thriller intertwines the two worlds of futuristic

Book: The Secret of Secrets

Author: Dan Brown

Published on: September 9, 2025

Genre: Mystery, Thriller and Suspense

science and mystical lore. Every page brings along with it a cliff-hanger, introduced by a barrage of dot-dot-dots and italics.

Why is it worth reading: This book is a propulsive and twisty paradise for those who adore solving complex puzzles, while delving deep into hidden histories and stories. The plot keeps readers on their toes as they

experience the race against time, the truth behind secret societies and global powers as well as the thrill of deciphering symbols, navigating historical landmarks through the story of Langdon who faces his deepest doubts. The book blends actual history with a fictional narrative seamlessly. Brown's writing dives into different perspectives. The cliff-hangers keep readers hooked, challenging them to think critically and understand the world better.

Iconic quote: "Sometimes a change in perspective is all it takes to reveal the truth."

Rating: 4.5/5

Review by: Manavi Chandra
AIS VKC Lko, XII A

